

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-26 and 28-35 have been rejected. Claims 8 and 27 are objected to. Claims 8 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 27 was also amended to include the wording "said storage controller" to correct an omission as part of the incorporation of the limitations of claim 24 into claim 27. Claims 8 and 27 are now allowable. Claims 4, 6, 7, 9 – 11, 13 – 16, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 31 – 34 have been amended to correct their dependencies. Claims 1-3, 5 18 – 22, and 24 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4 and 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over suggested admitted prior art (denoted by the Examiner as APA) in view of Gaskins U.S. Patent No. 5,930,821, hereinafter referred to as Gaskins, in further view of Anderson U.S. Patent No. 3,735,360, hereinafter Anderson. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the abovementioned amendments. Claims 8 and 27 are allowable. Thus, Claims 4, 6, 7, 9 – 17, 23, 25, 26, and 28 – 35 which include all the limitations of Claims 8 and 27 respectively, are also allowable.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above remarks. It is believed that the foregoing remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein should be allowable to the Applicants.

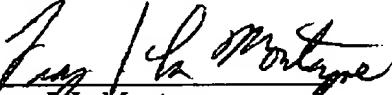
In the event the Examiner has any queries regarding the instantly submitted response, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

If there are additional charges with respect to this matter or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0463.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By


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